

AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 1 so that after the amendment, the following claims are pending in this application:

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1. (Twice amended) A coiled-coil polypeptide composition, comprising a template of the form $(ab_i c_i d e f_j g_i)_n$, where $i=1,2,\dots,n$, and n is at least three, a and d are amino acids each selected from the group consisting of leucine, isoleucine, valine, phenylalanine, methionine, tyrosine, and derivatives thereof, and the sequence formed by the positions $(b_i c_i e f_j g_i)_n$ is a sequence of amino acids from a solvent-accessible region of an epitope from a selected protein, wherein said region is not in a coiled-coil conformation in its native state.
 2. The composition of claim 1, wherein a is isoleucine and d is leucine.
 3. The composition of claim 1, wherein the coiled-coil polypeptide is comprised of two polypeptide chains arranged in a parallel configuration.
 4. The composition of claim 1, wherein n is between about 3 and about 20.
 5. The composition of claim 1, wherein n is between about 5 and about 10.
 6. The composition of claim 1, wherein the epitopes are selected from α -helical surface regions of cellular prion protein.
 7. The composition of claim 1, wherein the epitopes are selected from exposed surface regions of infectious prion protein.

8. The composition of claim 6, wherein the sequence formed by the positions $(b_i c_i e f_j g_i)_n$ corresponds to the solvent-accessible residues of an epitope having a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, and SEQ ID NO: 7.
9. The composition of claim 6, wherein the cellular prion protein is selected from the group consisting of mouse, hamster, bovine, ovine and human cellular prion protein.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii), a marked-up copy of the amended claim is attached herewith on a separate page.